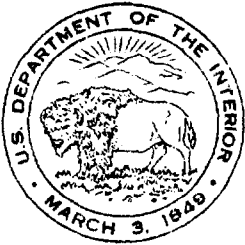


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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release DECEMBER 6, 1956

### 1957-58 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP DESIGN CHOSEN

A tempera watercolor featuring two American eider ducks flying over the surf has been chosen as the design for the 1957-58 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

Jackson Miles Abbott, 814 13th Street, New Alexandria, Virginia, is the artist who drew the winning design for the eighth annual "duck stamp" competition. This will be the 24th stamp to be issued in the Federal duck stamp series.

A panel of six waterfowl experts judged Mr. Abbott's design as the best of the 106 submitted in the competition. During the judging the artist's names were masked.

The second choice of the judges was a design featuring brants, also drawn by Mr. Abbott. Third place went to Stuart Ferreira, 308 South Cedar Street, Owatonna, Minnesota.

Mr. Abbott is the son of the late Jacob Bates Abbott, also a well-known wildlife artist. He was born in Germantown, Pa., in 1920 and under his father's tutelage learned to draw and paint birds and animals. He has studied wildlife throughout America and abroad and commanded an engineer technical intelligence team in Europe throughout World War II.

Invited to serve as members of the judging committee were Under Secretary of the Interior Clarence A. Davis; John L. Farley, Acting Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; A. W. Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Engraving Division, Bureau of Engraving and Printing; Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, President, Wildlife Management Institute; Walter A. Weber, noted wildlife artist of the National Geographic Society; and Edward J. Bierly, designer of the 1956-57 duck stamp.

Prior to the judging, Acting Director Farley presented Mr. Bierly with a leather, engraved album containing a sheet of the stamp which he designed. This sheet was autographed by Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield, Secretary of the Interior Seaton, and Mr. Farley. As the result of a suggestion made by a Fish and Wildlife Service employee, such an album will be presented each year to the winning artist.

The design selected for each year's duck stamp is chosen by a judging committee from among entries submitted by artists from every part of the country. Prior to 1949, however, outstanding wildlife artists were invited to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group. In that year the limitations were lifted and a public contest was decided upon in order to give an opportunity for all wildlife artists to compete in the future.

A total of 106 designs was submitted by 60 artists in this year's contest. The entries were notable for their fine quality. Two artists whose designs had been selected in previous years again submitted entries. Like all entries, these were handled with complete impartiality. The names of the artists and other identifying features were masked by mounting the entries at random behind large boards which contain 5 by 7 inch openings.

Twenty-eight States and the District of Columbia were represented among the entries. New York led the list with 8 contestants; California, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin tied for second place with 4 contestants each; Virginia, Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania had 3 each; Connecticut, Michigan, Oregon, New Jersey, Minnesota, Nebraska, and the District of Columbia had 2 each. Louisiana, Arkansas, Delaware, New Hampshire, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, South Carolina, Missouri, New Mexico, Georgia, and Iowa were represented by one contestant apiece.

Jay N. ("Ding") Darling, famous cartoonist and noted conservationist, then head of the former Bureau of Biological Survey, designed the first of the annual series of migratory waterfowl hunting stamps issued by the Federal Government. His first stamp went on sale on August 14, 1934, and expired on June 30, 1935. The quantity sold of that issue amounted to 635,001 stamps.

Succeeding duck stamp artists were: Frank W. Benson, 1935-36; Richard E. Bishop, 1936-37; J. D. Knap, 1937-38; Roland Clark, 1938-39; Lynn Bogue Hunt, 1939-40; Francis L. Jacques, 1940-41; E. R. Kalmbach, 1941-42; A. Lassell Ripley, 1942-43; Walter E. Bohl, 1943-44; Walter A. Weber, 1944-45 and 1950-51; Owen J. Gromme, 1945-46; Robert W. Hines, 1946-47; Jack Murray, 1947-48; Maynard Reece, 1948-49 and 1951-52; Roger E. Preuss, 1949-50; John H. Dick, 1952-53; Clayton B. Seagears, 1953-54; Harvey Sandstrom, 1954-55; Stanley Stearns, 1955-56; and Edward J. Bierly, 1956-57.

The duck stamp has become familiar to all migratory waterfowl hunters and to philatelists and conservationists throughout the country since the first issue in the series went on sale in 1934. A new stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department which is in charge of its distribution and sale. It goes on sale on July 1 and expires on the following June 30. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it sells for \$2. Every individual who has attained the age of 16 years and who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have on his person a stamp of current issue with his signature written across the face. This stamp is required in addition to a State hunting license.

More than two million duck stamps are sold annually. Duck stamp revenues are used to supplement other funds appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the purchase, development, administration, and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

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(NOTE: Glossy prints of the winning duck stamp design and of the contest judging are available on a loan basis for reproduction in newspapers and magazines from the Division of Information, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.)